

WHEAT PRICE \$2.50

AS SET BY SENATE

President May Veto Entire Agricultural Bill as Result of Rider.

FORE FATHERS MEASURE

Administration Had Decried

\$2.20 Basis Per Bushel in Chicago.

Special Dispatch to The Star.
WASHINGTON, March 21.—The Senate today adopted, 49 to 15, an amendment to the Agricultural Appropriation bill, whereby the price of wheat to the farmer will be fixed at \$2.50 per bushel. In opposition to the President and Food Administrator Hoover, the amendment was jammed through after almost five days of debate, in the course of which Senators wandered far from the subject of wheat, but always with the relentless purpose of coming back to the subject finally and adopting the amendment.

While thus far no consensus of public opinion has been gathered, it is regarded as more than likely that the Senate's action will be confirmed in the conference of the two houses and that the President, should Food Administrator Hoover back up his previous protest against such action, might feel impelled to veto the entire bill.

Following action of the Senate on wheat price fixing the agricultural bill itself, carrying slightly more than \$2,500,000, was passed without a roll call but not before the Senate, by a vote of 40 to 23, had knocked the Borland amendment forcing Federal clerical employees to work eight hours a day out of the bill.

President Set \$2.20 Price.
The President already has fixed \$2.20 as the basic price for wheat delivered at Chicago. Today's action precipitates what it is feared will be a bitter conflict as to the price to be paid producers for the 1918 crop. The President's \$2.20 price makes smaller prices for the producers at the local markets, while the Senate price, it is expected, would guarantee to the farmer \$2.50 as the minimum wherever he disposes of his product.

The guarantee provision of the Gore amendment is made absolute and binding until May 1, 1919, and is to be determined upon action by the President. The amendment provides that guaranteed prices shall be based upon No. 2 northern wheat or its equivalent. The present law makes No. 1 variety the basis for wheat prices.

The discussion on the floor of the Senate brought out earnest pleas from wheat State Senators to help the farmers by their action in not guaranteeing such a high price and thereby insure a high rate of production. Make wheat raising worth while, was the demand of the leaders following the \$2.50 price.

Farmers Raise Other Crops.
Senators Gore, Gronna (North Dakota), McCumber (North Dakota) and Reed (Missouri), were the staunchest advocates of the \$2.50 price. They declared that the farmers of the West and Northwest are turning to more profitable crops by reason of the low wheat price last year. It was their contention that the country will face a further curtailment of the national wheat supply if the encouragement of higher prices are not vouchsafed to the farmer.

The bill as it passed the Senate appropriated \$240,000 for free seed distribution. This clause was stricken out by the Senate Agricultural Committee in its report on the floor. Other appropriations included in the bill are Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for prizes to stimulate agricultural production; \$250,000 for extension of service in dehydrating fruits and vegetables; \$4,000,000 for the meat inspection service; \$500,000 for the eradication of live stock ticks; \$200,000 for the livestock markets; \$5,731,000 for forestry; \$1,100,000 for war upon the locust and moth disease and \$700,000 for combating the cotton boll weevil.

In the exception of Senator Dames (Iowa) all of the eighteen Senators who opposed the bill were from States where little or no wheat is produced. They were Ashurst, Kirby, Martin, McLean, Swanson, Trammell, Philbrick, Ladd, Pittman, Sheppard, Thomas, Vandenberg, G. Ingler, McKellar, Smith (Arizona), Tillman and Williams.

NEW WOODEN SHIP LAUNCHED

First of Fleet of Forty Schooners Built on Pacific Coast.
A PACIFIC FORT, March 21.—The dominant role of a fleet of 40 new wooden auxiliary schooners for use of the allied Governments, was successfully launched yesterday afternoon. Another hull will be launched next week, after following the same route to a new ship.

The Government which is having the vessels built to replace steel tonnage destroyed by submarines attacked at the wooden auxiliary schooner for the last five months for the construction of fifty five-masted auxiliary schooners for delivery during 1918.

The first of the ships was laid last October and has been built at a cost of \$100,000. It is expected the first completed schooner will be delivered to the owners on May 20 and will be the first of the fleet on or before November 30 next.

These vessels are to be equipped with coal fired water tube boilers and a capacity of 1,500 tons. They will have a draft of 9 knots.

THREE VESSELS LAUNCHED

Delaware River Shipyard Is Rushing Freighters to Completion.
PHILADELPHIA, March 21.—Some six days on the Delaware River will witness the launching of three ships with a total displacement of 1,500 tons, the increasing strength of the country. The largest, a freighter of 2,200 tons, was launched today. On Saturday a tug of 250 tons and on Monday a tug of 1,000 tons. Thursday the largest of the three, a tanker of 7,200 tons, will slip the launching ways.

All of these ships have a draft of 10 feet. As soon as the keels are struck the shipyard takes a forenoon to begin removing the timbers of the hull to make way for the keel and bottom plating. This was entirely laid before Monday was over.

HOLD UP
NO FONE
BOTH HANDS ARE FREE
When Phonics

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